To know if you have a penetrating sealer, perform the **water droplet test**: pour a small amount of water onto the concrete. If the water beads up instead of soaking in immediately and does not significantly darken the concrete within a few minutes, a sealer is present. W. R. Meadows +3

How to Identify a Penetrating Sealer

Unlike topical sealers (like acrylic or epoxy), penetrating sealers (like silane, siloxane, or siliconates) do not leave a shiny film, gloss, or plastic-like coating on top. They leave the concrete looking completely natural. Concrete Network +1

- **The Beading Test:** Drop water onto the surface. A sealed slab repels water, causing it to form beads. Unsealed concrete absorbs water instantly, darkening the concrete within seconds. W. R. Meadows +3
- **The Absorption Timing:** On a surface with a penetrating sealer, water droplets will stay beaded or sit on the surface without darkening the surrounding concrete for at least 5 to 10 minutes. W. R. Meadows
- **No Surface Sheen:** Look closely at the surface under bright light. If there is zero gloss, texture change, or peeling film, but water still beads, it is a strong indicator of a penetrating sealer rather than a topical coating. Concrete Network